

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A telescopic shaft for vehicle steering which is installed in a steering shaft of a vehicle and in which a male shaft and a female shaft are 5 fitted to each other to be unrotatable and slid able, characterized in that:

a spherical member for rotating upon relative movement of the two shafts in the axial direction is disposed between at least one pair of axial grooves 10 which are respectively formed on the outer peripheral surface of the male shaft and on the inner peripheral surface of the female shaft;

an elastic member for applying preload on the male shaft and the female shaft through the spherical member is interposed between the axial groove of the male shaft or the female shaft and the spherical member;

a columnar member for sliding upon relative movement of the two shafts in the axial direction is 20 disposed between at least another one pair of axial grooves respectively formed on the outer peripheral surface of the male shaft and on the inner peripheral surface of the female shaft; and

the radius of curvature of a transverse cross section of the axial groove on the male shaft side or 25 on the female shaft side on which the spherical member is rotated is set at 55% or less of the

diameter of the spherical member.